

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 06582 01 OF 02 102023Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

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-----073652 102029Z /53

R 101745Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1574

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6582

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: VIEWS OF PCI OFFICIAL

SUMMARY. AN AUTHORITATIVE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) SOURCE INDICATED TO EMBOFF APRIL 7 THAT HIS PARTY INTENDS TO STAND FIRM IN ITS OPPOSITION TO MAKING A DEAL WITH THE BRIGATE ROSSE (BR) TERRORIST HOLDING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) PRESIDENT ALDO MORO. REGARDING THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, THE SOURCE SAW NO REASON THAT THE PRESENT ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT COULD NOT REMAIN IN PLACE FOR A RELATIVELY LONG PERIOD OF TIME PROVIDED THAT IT PROVED ITSELF CAPABLE OF ACTING VIGOROUSLY TO DEAL WITH THE NATION'S PROBLEMS. THE COMMUNIST OFFICIAL SUGGESTED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 06582 01 OF 02 102023Z

THAT MORO'S POLITICAL CAREER HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN ENDED BY THE KIDNAPPING AND OBSERVED THAT SENATE PRESIDENT AMINTORE FANFANI HAD BEEN BEHAVING IN A STATESMAN-LIKE WAY RECENTLY. ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLANE, THE SOURCE COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EASTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE NOT CAPABLE, UNDER THE EXISTING LEADERSHIPS, OF PRODUCING NEW IDEAS ON ANY MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF APRIL 7, PCI FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF SERGIO SEGRE SAID THAT HIS PARTY INTENDS TO STICK TO ITS HARD POSITION OF OPPOSING ANY DEAL WITH THE BRIGATE ROSSE IN RETURN FOR THEIR RELEASE OF DC PRESIDENT MORO. IN HIS VIEW, A DEAL WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE TERRORISM AND CREATE ADDITIONAL PROSPECTS FOR INSTABILITY IN THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. BASED ON ITS OBSERVATIONS, THE PCI BELIEVES THAT THE DC WILL RESIST THE IDEA OF A DEAL, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PRESSURES IN THIS DIRECTION FROM SOME CIRCLES IN THE PARTY WHO ARGUE THE SUBJECT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE VALUE CATHOLICISM PLACES ON HUMAN LIFE. A POSSIBLE COMPLICATING FACTOR, ACCORDING TO SEGRE, IS THE SPLIT THAT SEEMS TO HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE DC AND THE MORO FAMILY CULMINATING IN A STORMY ENCOUNTER BETWEEN PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI AND THE FAMILY APRIL 5.

2. THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. IN A SENSE, SEGRE FEELS THAT THE KIDNAPPING HAS STRENGTHENED THE POSITION OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT SINCE IT IS UNTHINKABLE TO CHALLENGE IT AS LONG AS MORO'S FATE IS NOT RESOLVED. FURTHERMORE, SEGRE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT NECESSARILY HAS A LIMITED LIFE SPAN, AS MANY SUGGEST. HE SEES NO REASON THAT IT COULD NOT GO ON FOR SOME TIME--EVEN TO THE END OF THE LEGISLATURE--PROVIDED THAT IT GIVES THE COUNTRY DECISIVE LEADERSHIP IN ADDRESSING THE PRESSING PROBLEMS CONFRONTING IT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 06582 01 OF 02 102023Z

3. INTERNATIONAL AID FOR THE BR. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SEGRE INDICATED HE KNOWS OF NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD PROVE THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE BR HAD BEEN TRAINED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE WAS AWARE THAT SOME BR MEMBERS HAD VISITED CZECHOSLOVAKIA SOME YEARS BACK, BUT THIS IN ITSELF DOES NOT PROVE ANY OF THE ALLEGATIONS NOW CIRCULATING. EMBOFF CALLED SEGRE'S ATTENTION TO A RECENT STATEMENT BY PCI SENATOR AND DIRECTORATE MEMBER MACALUSO POINTING OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO DESTABLIZ THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PAST AND SUGGESTING THAT AN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MIGHT BE REPEATING THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY NOW THROUGH SUPPORT OF THE BR. HE TOLD SEGRE THAT IF THE PCI HAS PROOF OF SUCH ACTIVITY IT SHOULD PRESENT IT PUBLICLY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME; OTHERWISE THIS TYPE OF STATEMENT REPRESENTS IRRESPONSIBLE PROPAGANDA WHICH, COMING FROM A SENIOR PCI OFFICIAL, CALLS INTO QUESTION ONCE AGAIN THE PARTY'S PROFESSSED POLICY OF NOT BEING ANTI-AMERICAN. IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT VISIT TO ROME OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF JEAN KANAPA, EMBOFF ALSO POINTED TO AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 17 ISSUE OF HUMANITE, REPEATED IN PRAVDA ON MARCH 18, LINKING THE NATO BASE AT NAPLES TO A DESTABILIZATION CAMPAIGN IN ITALY OF

WHICH THE MORO KIDNAPPING WAS A PART. SEGRE TOLD EMBOFF HE UNDER-STOOD MESSAGE WHICH WAS BEING CONVEYED, AND SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY INFORMATION TO SUSTAIN MACALUSO'S INFERENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 ROME 06582 02 OF 02 102014Z
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 6582

4. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. SEGRE EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THERE ARE LINKS BETWEEN TERRORIST GROUPS OPERATING IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH HE CONCEDED THAT THE MORO KIDNAPPING WAS IN ALL LIKELIHOOD CARRIED OUT BY THE BR ACTING ALONE. HE AGREED WITH EMBOFF THAT A MAJOR EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ISOLATE THESE GROUPS FROM SOCIETY AND THAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST GOVERNMENTS THAT AID THEM. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBOFF TOLD SEGRE HE FOUND IT STRANGE THAT A TERRORIST SUCH AS WADI HADDAD HAD BEEN PROVIDED MEDICAL TREATMENT IN EAST GERMANY WHERE HE RECENTLY DIED.

5. MORO'S FUTURE. SEGRE SPECULATED THAT EVEN IF MORO IS EVENTUALLY RELEASED BY HIS CAPTORS, HIS EFFECTIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 06582 02 OF 02 102014Z

POLITICAL CAREER HAS PROBABLY BEEN ENDED BY THE EPISODE. ACCORDING TO SEGRE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW A MAN WHO HAD BEEN HUMILIATED AND BLACKMAILED BY TERRORISTS COULD BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE POST TO WHICH MORO APPARENTLY ASPIRED. AS FOR POSSIBLE ALTERNATE CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY, SEGRE MENTIONED SENATE PRESIDENT FANFANI WHOSE COMPORTMENT IN RECENT DAYS HE DESCRIBED AS EXEMPLARY.

6. EAST-WEST RELATIONS. BOTH SEGRE AND EMBOFF AGREED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE LACK OF PROGRESS IN IMPROVING EAST-WEST RELATIONS. EMBOFF POINTED TO DIFFICULTIES AT SALT TALKS AND TO THE APPARENT SOVIET DESIRE TO EXPAND ON A GLOBAL BASIS ITS COMPETITION WITH THE U.S., MENTIONING IN PARTICULAR THE RECENT SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. ON THE ETHIOPIAN QUESTION, EMBOFF ALSO QUESTIONED PCI'S CLOSE ADHERENCE TO SOVIET LINE, NOTING THAT PCI SECRETARIAT MEMBER PAJETTA'S ARTICLE IN FEBRUARY 17 ISSUE OF RINASCITA CAME CLOSE TO AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE SO-CALLED BREZHNEV DOCTRINE. SEGRE RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD HAVE WRITTEN THE ARTICLE DIFFERENTLY AND THAT THE PCI DESIRES TO HAVE SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CUBANS, PRIMARILY OVER CONCERN OF POSSIBLE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ERITREA.

7. REGARDING THE SOVIET UNION, SEGRE SAID ITS LEADERSHIP, AND THAT OF ITS EASTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES, IS TOTALLY DEVOID OF ANY NEW IDEAS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. EMBOFF ASKED SEGRE WHY THE PCI REMAINS SO RELUCTANT TO CRITICIZE THE SOVIETS ON POLICY ISSUES WHEN, AT THE SAME TIME, IT SHOWS A READINESS TO CHALLENGE THE U.S. ON ISSUES WITH WHICH IT DOES NOT AGREE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT IN THIS AREA THE PCI IS SEEMINGLY NOT CONSISTENT WITH ITS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 06582 02 OF 02 102014Z

STATED POLICY OF BEING NEITHER ANTI-SOVIET NOT ANTI-AMERICAN. SEGRE NOTED A PCI STATEMENT APPROVING THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED EEC ACCORD WITH CHINA AS AN ACTION TAKEN TO DEMONSTRATE A DIVERGENCE FROM SOVIET POLICY. EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT THIS INDIRECT METHOD OF CRITICISM IS NOT NOTICED BY MOST OBSERVERS AND AVOIDS THE LARGER ISSUE OF WHY THE PCI IS UNPREPARED TO STAND UP TO THE USSR WHERE DIVERGENT VIEWS EXIST. GARDNER

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